

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03590 120539Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

EB-08 /070 W

-----099609 120542Z /10

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03590

FOR: VOA PGM/P PGM/R, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION U.S. - VIETNAM RELATIONS

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH PRESS, JULY 12, IN ITS MAIN EDITORIAL, UNDER THE HEADING "VIETNAM'S OFFER TO U.S." COMMENTED:
 2. "A VIETNAMESE OFFER OF A FULL DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH THE UNITED STATES IS OBVIOUSLY A SERIOUSLY MEANT PROPOSITION AND EVEN CARRIES WITH IT AN AIR OF ENTHUSIASM...
 3. "EARLIER AMERICAN CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRED THE HANDING OVER OF THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION IN VIETNAM HAVE BEEN LARGELY MET. THE REPARATIONS ISSUE WAS THE BIGGEST REMAINING OBSTACLE. VIETNAM IS NOW APPARENTLY WILLING TO REMOVE THAT CONDITION.
 4. "RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE SENSIBLE, BUT THE FACT THAT VIETNAM UNCLASSIFIED
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- IS SEEKING THE RESTORATION NOW MAY HAVE SPECIAL IMPLICATIONS. RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM HAVE BECOME STEADILY WORSE AND CHINA HAS SUSPENDED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID TO VIETNAM...
5. "VIETNAM MAY BE FEARING THE WORST ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND MAY BE SEEKING TO STEER OTHER COUNTRIES

INTO AT LEAST NEUTRAL POSITIONS. IF THIS INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT, IT AUGURS ILL FOR THE WHOLE REGION, FOR IT IMPLIES A CONTINUATION OF BIG-POWER COMPETITION AND DISHARMONY.

6. "A LESS GLOOMY INTERPRETATION WOULD BE THAT VIETNAM HAS CONCLUDED MERELY THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN PERSEVERING ABOUT AMERICAN REPARATIONS BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS NOT GOING TO YIELD...

7. "VIETNAM MAY BE EXPECTING TO GET THE RESULTS IT WANTS SIMPLY BY DROPPING ITS CONDITION. CONCEIVABLY, THE UNITED STATES WILL AGREE TO BUY THE IDEA OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOW, AND PAY, BY WAY OF AID, LATER."
ANDERSON

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